

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-00 INRE-00 IO-00 L-00 PM-00  
EUR-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00  
SS-25 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----291530Z 050596 /50 S

P R 291047Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9710

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRUSSELS 04300

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, MNUC, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN VIEWS ON U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 91828 (NOTAL), (B) BRUSSELS 9095 (NOTAL), (C)  
STATE 76588

1. SUMMARY: THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED  
AT ITS APRIL 27 PRESS BRIEFING THAT IT IS STUDYING THE  
CARTER ADMINISTRATION NUCLEAR POLICY WITH RESPECT TO  
HOW IT MIGHT RELATE TO BELGIAN EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR  
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TECHNOLOGY, AND NOTING THAT POSITIONS AMONG THE EC-NINE  
COUNTRIES DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY ON NON-PROLIFERATION.  
IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, BELGIAN  
CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
FOR BELGIUM OF U.S. POLICY, AND ABOUT IMPLICATIONS FOR  
CONTINUED EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.  
WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES THAT ENRICHED

URANIUM SUPPLIES FROM THE U.S. FOR EXISTING FACILITIES  
IN BELGIUM WILL CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: AT HIS APRIL 27 PRESS BRIEFING,  
THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY MADE THE  
FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY  
(EMBASSY TRANSLATION FROM NOTES): "THE CARTER ADMIN-  
ISTRATION NUCLEAR POLICY WILL BE STUDIED BY BELGIUM,  
PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO BELGIAN DELIVERIES TO  
FOREIGN COUNTRIES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY UNDER ARRANGMENTS  
WITH WESTINGHOUSE AND GENERAL ELECTRIC. POSITIONS ON THIS  
ISSUE DIFFER WIDELY AMONG EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS;  
VIZ. THE FRG CONTRACT WITH BRAZIL, THE FRENCH CONTRACT  
WITH PAKISTAN, AND THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE USE OF  
NATIONAL OR FOREIGN TECHNOLOGIES. IN THE CONTEXT OF  
NON-PROLIFERATION, TWO POINTS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND:  
FIRST, FRANCE HAS NOT SIGNED THE NPT, AND SECOND, THE  
UK AND FRANCE ARE NUCLEAR POWERS WHILE THE OTHER EC  
MEMBERS ARE NOT." NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED BY THE PRESS  
AND NO FURTHER ELABORATION WAS PROVIDED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT IS VERY CLOSE IN  
SUBSTANCE TO THE MINISTRY'S PRELIMINARY INFORMAL RESPONSE  
REPORTED IN BRUSSELS 3095. ADDITIONAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION  
OF BELGIUM'S DEVELOPING RESPONSE TO THE U.S. NUCLEAR  
POWER POLICY TOOK PLACE ON APRIL 26, WHEN WE PRESENTED  
REFTEL A PROPOSED NON-PAPER TO SIMONE HERPELS, DIRECTOR  
FOR ATOMIC MATTERS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. SHE WELCOMED  
OUR INITIATIVE ON THE FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM, AND  
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EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THE BELGIUM WOULD PARTICIPATE.

4. MLLE. HERPELS SAID THAT SHE THINKS THE BELGIAN RESPONSE  
TO THE U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY ANNOUNCED APRIL 7 WILL CONCENTRATE  
ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:  
FIRST, BELGIUM AGREES WITH THE U.S. DESIRE TO IMPROVE  
AND UPDATE THE PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES SET OUT IN THE  
NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND IMPLEMENTED THROUGH BODIES  
SUCH AS EURATOM, IAEA, AND THE LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP.  
BELGIUM SUPPORTS THE U.S. INITIATIVE IN GENERAL.

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. MACFARLANE, S/S-O.

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EUR-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00

SS-25 SSO-00 /026 W

-----291530Z 050780 /50 S

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9711

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRUSSELS 04300

EXDIS

5. SECOND, MLLE. HERPELS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTING ITS NUCLEAR POLICY COULD ALIENATE COUNTRIES WHOSE SUPPORT IS NEEDED. SOME NPT SIGNERS ALREADY SAY THAT THE U.S. IS UNILATERALLY DISREGARDING OR REDEFINING ARTICLE IV OF THE TREATY, PLEDGING FREE EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. MLLE. HERPELS CALLED OUR ATTENTION TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT YUGOSLAVIA AND PERHAPS OTHER NPT SIGNATORIES WILL DECIDE TO RENOUNCE THEIR ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY, IF THE U.S. DOES NOT OVERCOME THE IMPRESSION THAT WE HAVE

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INTRODUCED AN UNJUSTIFIED ELEMENT OF DISCRIMINATION IN OUR INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE IV. THIS SORT OF DEVELOPMENT CONFIRMS NPT NON-SIGNERS IN THEIR RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE TREATY.

6. THIRD, BELGIUM WILL STRESS THAT ITS ENERGY SITUATION--

AND THAT OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN GENERAL -- IS PROFOUNDLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE U.S. THE ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF INDIGENOUS FOSSIL FUELS DICTATED BELGIUM'S ORIGINAL DECISION TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER. THE ABSENCE OF URANIUM ORE, TOGETHER WITH OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, HAVE LED BELGIUM TO DEVELOP DOMESTIC FACILITIES COVERING THE ENTIRE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, PLUS ADVANCED RESEARCH. THEY HAVE ADOPTED AND ENFORCED SAFEGUARDS. THIS NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BECOME AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF THE BELGIAN ENERGY PICTURE. NATIONAL PLANNING CALLS FOR INCREASED USE OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED NUCLEAR POWER. FUEL FABRICATION AND REPROCESSING FACILITIES PERMIT BELGIUM TO MAXIMIZE THE DEGREE OF ITS ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAST POINT, MLE. HERPELS ASKED WHETHER BELGIUM CAN BE SURE THAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE SUPPLYING ENRICHED URANIUM TO BELGONUCLEAIRE, THE FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY THAT PRESENTLY MEETS ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF BELGIUM'S NUCLEAR FUEL NEEDS. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SUCH AN EXISTING FACILITY IS THE TYPE REFERRED TO IN PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS FOUR, FIVE AND SEVEN OF THE APRIL 7 ADDRESS, AND THE THEREFORE WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE SUPPLYING BELGONUCLEAIRE. PLEASE ADVISE. IN ADDITION, PLEASE LET US KNOW WHETHER HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM UTILIZED BY THE BR-2 RESEARCH REACTOR TO MOL WOULD ALSO REMAIN ACCEPTABLE UNDER THE PRESIEENTIAL GUIDELINES (SEE 76 BRUSSELS 11026 FOR BACKGROUND). MLE. HERPELS ALSO NOTED THAT BELGIUM HAS AN INDIRECT INTEREST IN THE FRENCH SUPER-PHENIX FAST BREEDER PROGRAM, THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICIPATION IN THE GERMAN KALKAR PROGRAM. RENNER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. MACFARLANE, S/S-O.

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## Message Attributes

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